



Captain Walt's Log

Lake Geneva Update

The Lake Geneva bass fishery continues to be very productive, despite huge amounts of fishing pressure. In my opinion, it is the best smallmouth bass fishery in the local area. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass are very catchable using a wide variety of fishing techniques. Early in the year the bass are shallow so skinny water techniques work well (wacky worm, shallow crank baits, suspending stick baits, etc.). As

the season progresses, the fish move deeper but are still very catchable using skirted jigs, spinnerbaits, drop shot rigs, jig and grub, etc. In the fall the bass are targeted with live bait rigs with large minnows like suckers, bluegill, or perch. Shown here are some of the bass we caught from Lake Geneva last year.

I have been fishing Lake Geneva for a long time and one species on the decline is the northern pike. Years ago, we would routinely catch 10-20 pike in an outing and we would get a couple of legal sized fish. Lately, the pike we catch are smaller and few and far between.

Recently, walleye stocking on Lake Geneva has been a priority for the Wisconsin DNR and *Walleyes for Tomorrow*. In years past, Lake Geneva was a great walleye fishery. Many trophy fish and lots of eating size fish were caught. It will be interesting to see if the catching improves after all the stocking efforts. Over the years we have caught a few walleyes while fishing for other species, usually when fishing with live bait.

One new species, muskie, was introduced a few years ago. Already there are reports of 30-40" fish being caught. Maybe the muskie can replace the northern pike as a top of the line predator in Lake Geneva. So far, we have not caught any muskie on Lake Geneva.

Panfish like bluegill, crappie, perch and rock bass are still plentiful on Lake Geneva. The juvenile panfish are a great forage base for the larger fish. This is one reason that the bass are so healthy on Lake Geneva.

